

pronounce their names; he owed his maintenance to public charity; he learned to read and write; this was the utmost extent of his education. At the age of fifteen he hired himself to a farmer; he was entrusted with the care of a flock. Lucetta, a young girl of the neighbourhood, at the same time tended her father's sheep. She led them to pastures, where she often met Perrin, who paid her all the little services and assiduities that were possible at his age and his situation. Their custom of being together, their quiet occupations, their innocence and goodness of heart, their officious attention to each other, produced a mutual attachment.

They were fond of each other's company; they waited with impatience for the hour at which they usually met in the meadow, they quitted it with regret, because, when they were to leave it, they were to separate. Their young hearts were susceptible; they already felt the passion of love, though they were ignorant of its nature and tendency. Five years glided away in innocent amusements; their sentiments grew more animated and ardent; they never met without the warmest emotions, which were heightened by the artless expressions of their love. Lucetta frequently checked Perrin's passion, not without regretting the constraint to which she was subjected by her conscious and ingenuous modesty; Perrin

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fighed, and imitated her cautious behaviour. They both wished to be united by wedlock, and communicated to each other their mutual desire\*. Marriage is the final object of rural love. Seducement is not known in the innocent village, the coquette and the man of intrigue are characters not to be met with there.

Perrin intended to ask Lucetta of her father; he communicated his intention to his mistress, who blushed at the proposal, yet frankly acknowledged that it gave her a very sensible pleasure. She did not, however, chuse to be present at the interview between him and her father; she told her lover she was going to the neighbouring town next day, desired him to avail himself of her absence, and to acquaint her in the evening with his success. The young man, at the appointed time, flew to Lucetta's father. He opened his mind to him without reserve. Studied persuasion and art are not the talents of rustic orators. He frankly told him that he loved Lucetta. You love my daughter, answered the old man abruptly! You would marry her! are you in earnest, Perrin?—How do you propose to live? Have you cloaths to give her? Have

\* Virtuous love dwells only in innocent and virtuous minds; but vicious desires are the baneful offspring of contaminated affections.